

Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 685

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0032

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NZ

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF STATE 002930

1. AMBASSADOR IS DELIGHTED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TENTATIVE TRAVEL PLANS INCLUDE A VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND. THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENCE BY THE AMBASSADOR WITH SENIOR GNZ OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED A VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT DURING THE DATES SUGGESTED.

2. ASSUMING THE VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES AT 2:10 PM ON THURSDAY, APRIL 1, AS INDICATED REFTTEL, HE COULD THEN PROCEED BY CAR THROUGH SCENIC COUNTRYSIDE, ARRIVING WELLINGTON APPROXIMATELY 2-1/2 HOURS LATER. THAT EVENING, AMBASSADOR SELDEN WOULD HOST DINNER IN VICE PRESIDENT'S HONOR.

3. FRIDAY, APRIL 2, WOULD BE RESERVED FOR VISITS WITH TOP GNZ OFFICIALS AND WOULD CULMINATE IN DINNER OFFERED BY GNZ IN VICE PRESIDENT'S HONOR.

4. FORTUITOUSLY, AMERICA BICENTENNIAL WEEK CELEBRATION COMMENCES SUNDAY, APRIL 4 IN CHRISTCHURCH, METROPOLITAN
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CENTER OF NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND, AND AMBASSADOR

WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED IF VICE PRESIDENT COULD PARTICIPATE IN OPENING CEREMONIES. THE PREVIOUS DAY, APRIL 3, COULD THEN BE SPENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT RELAXING EITHER AT SCENIC MT. COOK OR IN T OF QUEENSTOWN ON SOUTH ISLAND.

5. BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES ON APRIL 4 WILL COMMENCE WITH A SERVICE IN THE HISTORIC CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL AND WOULD, IF AGREEABLE, CULMINATE WITH RECEPTION THAT EVENING IN VICE PRESIDENT'S HONOR. VICE PRESIDENT COULD THEN DEPART NEW ZEALAND FOR TAHITI THAT EVENING OR EARLY MORNING APRIL 5.

6. WHILE ABOVE PROGRAM WOULD BRIEFLY DELAY THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO US, IT WOULD TRANSFORM INAUGURATION OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION INTO SIGNAL EVENT IN US-NZ RELATIONS AND COMPLEMENT VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN AUSTRALIA.
SELDEN

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